

For Immediate Release
September 26, 2011

Mayor Coleman, COWIC and Chamber Announce Citywide Employment Initiative

Hire1000: Helping 1000 Central Ohioans get back to work

Columbus Mayor Michael B. Coleman, Central Ohio Workforce Investment Corporation (COWIC) President & CEO Suzanne Coleman-Tolbert and Columbus Chamber President Michael Dalby today announced Hire1000, a collaborative employment initiative with the goal of helping at least 1000 unemployed Central Ohioans get back to work by the end of the year. From seasonal to permanent and part-time to full-time, Hire1000 has identified companies who are hiring right now. Starting Wednesday, September 28, the partnership will present a free series of job expos to connect job seekers with those employers.

“We wanted to make sure that no matter where they live, Columbus’ job seekers had an opportunity to go after these jobs,” Mayor Michael Coleman said. “Hire 1000 job expos will take place on all sides of our city. There is no silver bullet when it comes to addressing the issues that come with joblessness, but every opportunity to connect job seekers with potential employers is one we should take.”

Earlier this month, Columbus’ Economic Development Department, COWIC, and the Columbus Chamber of Commerce sent letters to hundreds of local businesses, asking them to attend the job expos and search for the people they would like to hire. So far, 30 employers have registered to attend the September 28 event with a total of more than 1000 open positions, and more are signing up for future events. All central Ohio job seekers from entry level to professionals are encouraged to attend.

“These are some of the most difficult times we have seen for the many job seekers who come into our Work Place Central One-Stop,” COWIC President and CEO Suzanne Coleman-Tolbert said. “We see an average of 1200 new people every month. We also hear from employers looking to hire. In this time when online applications are the first and most common option, the opportunity to sell yourself face-to-face to an employer even before an interview is almost unheard of. At Hire 1000 job seekers will have that opportunity.”

Columbus’ Recreation and Parks have offered space and other venues have been offered free of charge for these expos. Below are the dates, times and locations. Jobs seekers should bring their resumes and come dressed for interviews. Parking will be free at all expos.

“Hire 1000”

September 28, 2011 Columbus Metropolitan Library (Main Library), 10am-2pm

October 13, 2011– Marion Franklin Community Center, 10am-2pm

October 27, 2011– King Arts Complex, 10am-2pm

November 10, 2011– Westgate Community Center 10am-2pm

November 17, 2011, St. Stephen’s Community House, 10am-2pm

Employers can register for the expos by contacting COWIC Business Solutions Project Manager Jo Youngs at 614-583-1333 or jayoungs@hotmail.com. For more information go to www.COWIC.org.